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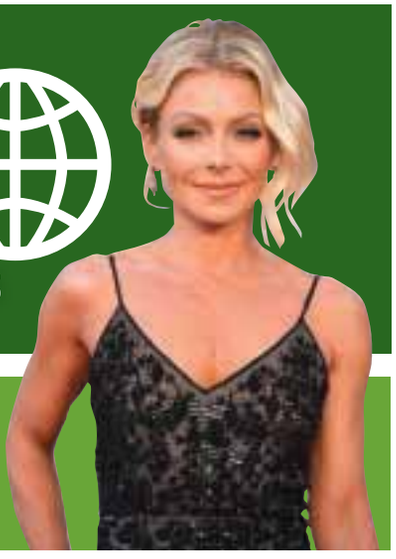

A 'LIVE!' SHAKE-UP

Kelly Ripa not thrilled with Michael Strahan's news. 26

The Olsen twins inspired a new museum. 30

Rangers must find offense tonight. 35

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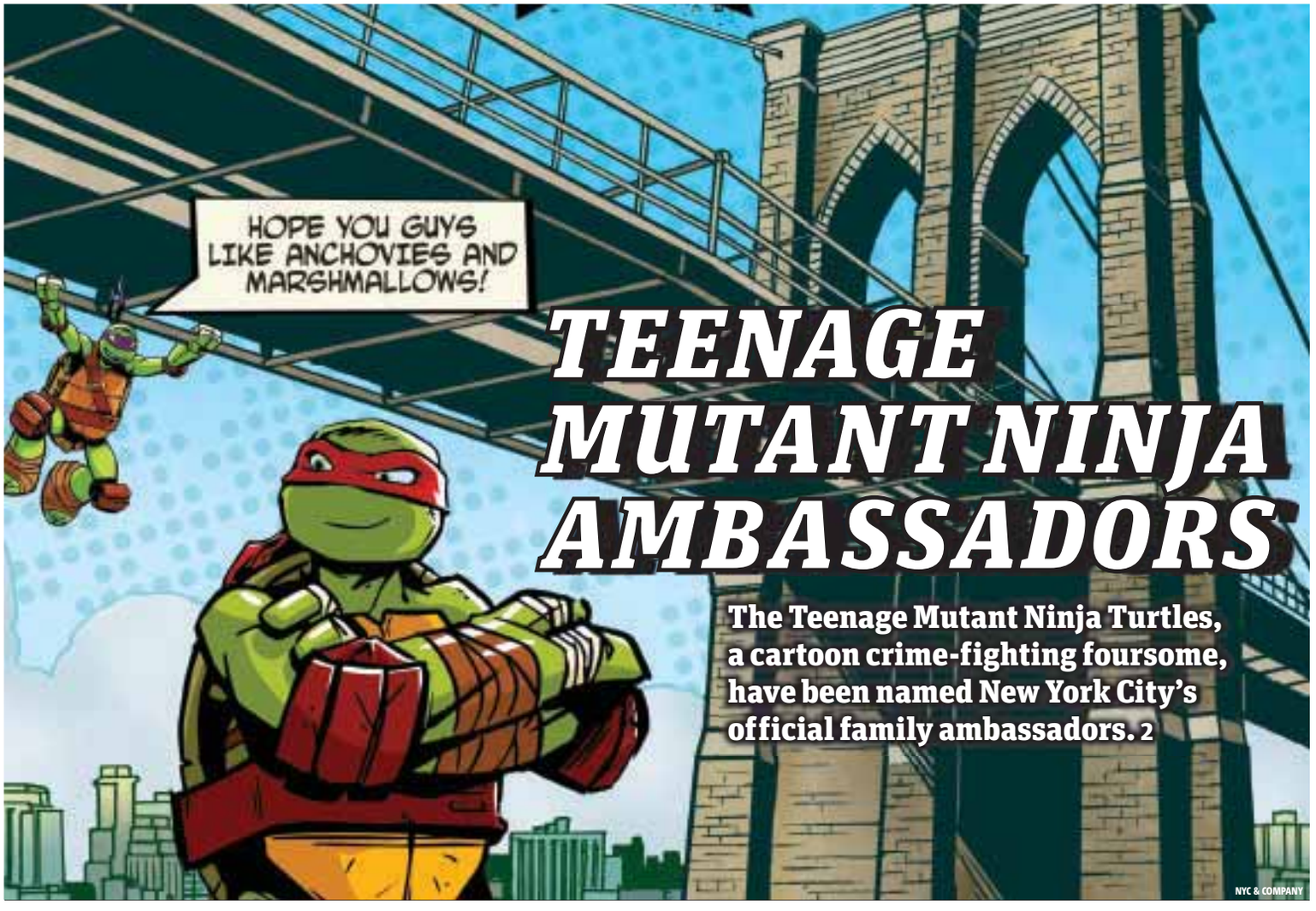

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA AMBASSADORS

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, a cartoon crime-fighting foursome, have been named New York City's official family ambassadors. 2

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

HARRIET TUBMAN TO BE FEATURED ON U.S. $20 BILL: POLITICO

1 The U.S. Treasury has decided to replace former President Andrew Jackson with anti-slavery crusader Harriet Tubman on the U.S. $20 bill, and will put leaders of the women's suffrage movement on the back of $10 bill, Politico reported on Wednesday. The long-awaited decision keeps Alexander Hamilton, one of the U.S. founding fathers, on the front of the $10 bill, Politico said, citing unnamed sources. It said there would also be changes to the $5 bill to depict civil rights era leaders. **REUTERS**

MICHIGAN OFFICIALS CHARGED IN FLINT WATER CRISIS

2 Three Michigan state and local officials were criminally charged in connection with the state attorney general's investigation into dangerous lead levels in Flint's drinking water, a crisis that has fueled widespread public outrage. Genesee District Judge Tracy Collier-Nix authorized charges against Flint employee Michael Glasgow and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality employees Stephen Busch and Michael Prysby. Glasgow, 40, was charged with tampering with evidence and willful neglect of duty, according to court documents. The first charge is related to when he allegedly changed testing results to show there was less lead in city water than there actually was. **REUTERS**

EU HITS GOOGLE WITH SECOND ANTITRUST CHARGE

3 The European Union charged Google on Wednesday with using its dominant Android mobile operating system to squeeze out rivals, opening a second front against the U.S. technology giant that could result in large fines. EU antitrust regulators said that by requiring mobile phone manufacturers to pre-install Google Search and the Google Chrome browser to get access to other Google apps, the U.S. company was harming consumers by stifling competition. The European Commission said such practices, which started in 2011 when the company became dominant in mobile operating systems and app stores, showed Google was seeking to shield its search engine, the world's most popular, from competition. **REUTERS**

The promotional materials use the world's most well-known anthropomorphic turtles to excite families about New York City attractions. **PROVIDED**

NYC tourism efforts get boost from colorful mutant crime-fighters

The pizza-loving Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles foursome will highlight the Big Apple as a family-friendly destination through campaigns across the city and country.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Step aside, pizza rat, because there are four other pizza-loving — and crime fighting — New Yorkers taking the city by storm.

Nickelodeon and city marketing organization NYC & Company announced Wednesday that the beloved Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are the newest Official NYC Family Ambassadors.

As part of a yearlong campaign, the crime-fighting quartet will showcase the Big Apple as a family-friendly destination in campaigns across the city and across the country.

"We're excited to enlist the help of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, four dynamic and adventurous New Yorkers, to welcome family travelers to NYC," said Fred Dixon, president and CEO of NYC & Company.

"Known by visitors from around the world, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are the perfect guides to help families discover the vibrancy and excitement throughout the five boroughs."

Nickelodeon's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" is in its fourth season and can be seen in more than 170 countries. The series follows four brothers — Leonardo, Raphael, Donatello and Michelangelo — who are trained by Master Splinter to battle evil in the city's sewers.

As part of the campaign, the crime-fighting turtles will help families find exciting things to do and see across the five boroughs. NYC & Company has also launched ads featuring the turtles in various locations in each borough.

32.6%

VISITATION BY FAMILIES IN THE CITY HAS GROWN 32.6 PERCENT SINCE THE PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN 2009

17.7M

FAMILIES EXPECTED TO VISIT THIS YEAR

Along with the ads, the campaign will be promoted in Boston, Chicago and 23 shopping malls in the country; through social media using the hashtag #nycgofamily; television commercials running in city cabs; and more.

Since the launch of the Family Ambassador program in 2009 — past ambassadors have included Dora the Explorer and Curious George — visitation by families in the city has grown 32.6 percent.

Last year, New York City welcomed about 17.5 million families and this year the number is expected to grow to about 17.7 million.

"As native New Yorkers, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are the perfect choice to encourage visitors from around the globe to find their own adventures in the city that never sleeps," said Pam Kaufman, chief marketing officer and president of consumer products for Nickelodeon.

"We are proud to continue our longstanding partnership with NYC & Company, which leverages our beloved characters to showcase the best of what New York City has to offer for kids and families," she said.

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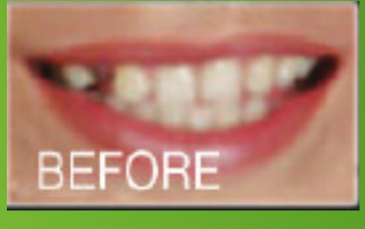

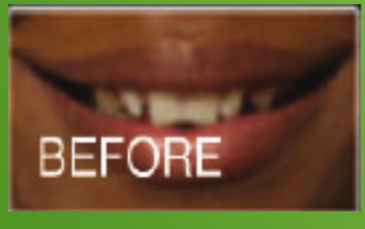

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(SMILE)

Inside look: Studios prove bigger isn't always better

Four single-room apartments that make small spaces desirable in New York City.

CRISTABELLE TUMOLA
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

New York City renters and buyers are used to compromises, and that almost always means space. For singles — and even couples — a studio is the perfect option for those looking to move into their dream neighborhood.

But small living doesn't need to cramp your style, as these four studios prove.

245 E 24th PROVIDED

245 East 24th Street

This alcove studio in Kips Bay offers city views for $499,000. In addition to the main living area, the kitchen also features its own window, along with Caesarstone counters and Murano lighting fixtures. Located in a co-op, amenities include a 24-hour attended door, common laundry, bike room, storage lockers and landscaped roof deck.

40 West 72nd Street

Nothing says studio living like a Murphy bed. But this Upper West Side apartment also has spacious closets and a renovated kitchen and bathroom. The 15-foot-2-inch by 13-foot-7-inch main area may seem small — but it will cost you only $399,000 in a full-service, pre-war co-op located between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue.

150 Myrtle Avenue

This Brooklyn studio promises a "unique open layout allowing for maximum comfort." That layout includes three closets, a washer/dryer, and 11-foot-7-inch by 9-foot-2-inch open kitchen area that leads to a 12-foot-7-inch by 15-foot-3-inch living/sleeping area. The apartment, in Downtown Brooklyn/Fort Greene and listed for $530,000, is all about the views, with its floor-to-ceiling windows that show the Manhattan skyline. The building is also "green," with a fitness center, 50-foot heated indoor pool, and a landscaped multilevel roof garden.

303 Greenwich Street

Consider this a starter apartment as the 541-square-foot space has the potential to be combined with a nearby unit. Located in Tribeca, the studio has a 16-by-18 main living space, pass-through kitchen, bathroom with full tub and "ample closet space." The two-bedroom apartment next door is also available, and if combined the two places would equal 1,531 square feet. For $775,000, whether buyers choose just the studio or both apartments, they'll get an elevator building with 24-hour doorman, concierge service, garden courtyard and roof deck.

Prospect Park rape attempt suspect at large

Police are searching for a suspect who allegedly attempted to rape a woman as she jogged in Prospect Park.

Around 5:15 a.m. on Wednesday, a woman jogging near Garfield Place and Prospect Park West was attacked from behind, police reported.

The woman told police a black man who was about 6 feet tall with light facial hair threw her to the ground, produced a knife and said he was going to sexually assault her.

The victim resisted against the alleged attacker, causing him to eventually flee. The woman was left with a cut on her finger, police added. She was taken to Methodist Hospital in stable condition.

Police said there have been no arrests, and the investigation is ongoing.

JASON NUCKOLLS

The intersection of Garfield Place and Prospect Park West GOOGLE MAPS

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APR 23

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Students mix ingredients. PROVIDED

Healthy eating with a competitive edge

NYC middle schoolers set to compete, learn about healthy eating during student sandwich showdown.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

A group of New York City middle schoolers are putting on their aprons and hitting the kitchen for an imaginative and healthy food fight putting their newly learned skills to the test.

On Thursday night 20 students will battle it out during a Student Sandwich Showdown at the Dual Language Middle School, located at 32 West 92nd St.

The students — who are all part of the After-School All-Stars' MasterChef program — will be given the chance to create healthy sandwiches and will be critiqued by a panel of expert judges.

The After-School All-Stars (ASAS) is an nonprofit organization which offers enrichment activities and after-school classes for students at public schools — most of whom are part of low-income communities.

As part of the services offered by ASAS, students can participate in classes like robotics or cooking.

"Young people fall in love with learning in different ways and different phases," said Dax-Devlon Ross, executive director of ASAS. "Our goal as educators is to create conditions for young people to love learning."

"Young people fall in love with learning in different ways and different phases."
Ross

Students who select to be part of ASAS' MasterChef program get the chance to learn about healthy eating habits, hands-on cooking, kitchen basics, reading and understanding nutrition labels.

"Our work is really designed to help young people have a different relationship with food," Ross said. "To understand that food can be something that fuels their day or ruins their day."

During Thursday's competition — which is slated to start at 6 p.m. — students will be provided with different fresh ingredients provided by Amy Scherber, founder of Amy's Bread, and will have the chance to create the sandwiches.

The students will be judged on presentation, creativity and taste. And although the competition is similar to that of the Food Network's high-intensity show "Chopped," Ross said he hopes the kids will have a great time.

"On one level, we are trying to connect the work we are doing to the larger conversation of food, and at the same time, it's to reward the kids for their work," he said. "I hope the kids get out of it a feeling of accomplishment. We're here to support [them]. I really do hope they have fun."

Thursday's event is part of Chef Sandwiches for Good, a charity sandwich program started in March by the owner of Amy's Bread.

The chefs each select an organization that will receive a portion of the proceeds gathered from the sale of their sandwiches, which are offered through the various Amy's Bread locations.

#PoetweetNYC 2016 winners announced

Becky Phan
Off the 2-3, Wall St
Fine print, real neat:
With money comes strings cuz see
When they say money talks, it's all ventriloquy
#PoetweetNYC

Christina Gonzalez
Driving in Queens/Which are you? /Street or
Drive or Avenue?/ I seek hints, a way out of this
mess /But then I consult my GPS.
#PoetweetNYC

Lindsey Thaden
Chinatown/Past the crowds/A door on the
ground/A narrow staircase/Does death wait
below?/I descend... ¡Ay! Heaven in handbags.
#PoetweetNYC

Participants were asked to submit their best poems via Twitter and keeping it to one tweet.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

These New Yorkers are poets and they definitely know it.

Last week, Metro New York, together with the Office of the Mayor and the city's Department of Cultural Affairs launched the annual "PoetweetNYC" Twitter poetry contest.

From April 11-15, New Yorkers and Twitter users from across the country were asked to submit their best poems via social media using the hashtag #PoetweetNYC.

The basic rules were to "keep it clean and keep it to one tweet" and, in honor of Poem in Your Pocket Day, the top five poems are printed here.

Today's Poem in Your Pocket Day is a citywide celebration that encourages New Yorkers to appreciate poetry and emphasize the importance of literacy.

During the day, New Yorkers are encouraged to carry a poem in their pocket to share with friends, family and colleagues.

A poem not lost in translation

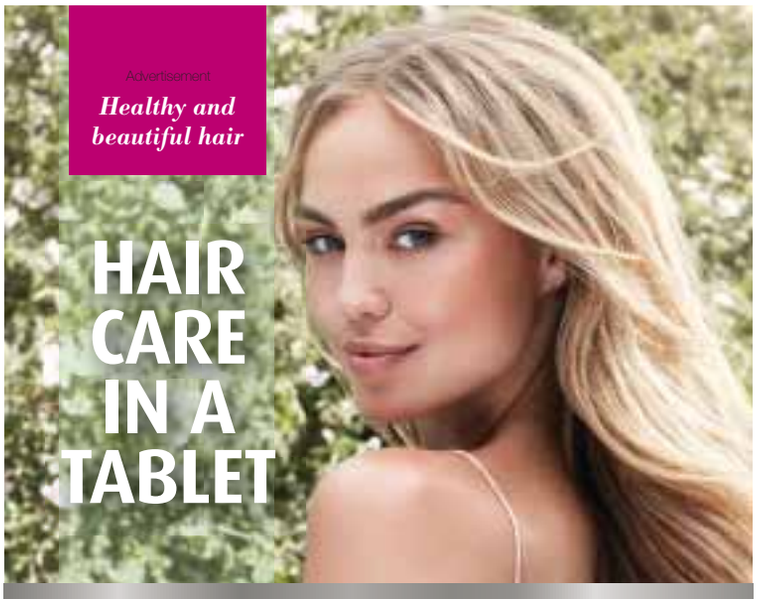
@Sahadevision's tweet is in Nepalese. Here is the translation:

Tall buildings like mountains,
Bearing alike desire.
any moment,
the opportunity may arrive,
I am Waiting in New York Sahar.

Time Traveling Bong

Comedy Central's "Time Traveling Bong" was on display on 4/20 at Chelsea Plaza on Wednesday.
GETTY IMAGES

Advertisement
Healthy and beautiful hair



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WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS.

(An original screenplay)

1 FADE IN. 1

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

We see a man on a stand-up paddleboard waiting for a wave.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
RYAN was waiting for the perfect wave when something hit his from under the water, knocking him off his paddleboard.

We see a fin cutting through the water and coming back toward Ryan.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Ryan felt his leg being stabbed by a hundred knives at the same time. Then it went numb. All he could feel was something trying to drag him underwater. He flailed and kicked until the beast let him go.

MUSIC STOPS.

We see Ryan surrounded by a circle of blood.

HEROIC SOUNDTRACK STARTS PLAYING.

Suddenly, Ryan is surrounded by a swirling blue ring.

Throughout the film, the characters do exactly what the narrator says.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
A few dolphins circled around Ryan, while others went at the shark, fighting for the man's life as if he were one of them.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Delirious after losing so much blood, Ryan could barely understand what was happening until, in a moment of clarity, he grabbed his board.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
A little wave carried him to the shore. As his friends waded toward him, he passed out.

2 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 2

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Ryan woke up with hundreds of stitches and staples in his leg. He was alive, thanks to his friends on the shore and in the water. He'll never know if they all survived. But he knows they'll live in his heart for the rest of his life.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END

*

* NO ONE WRITES STORIES BETTER THAN NATURE.

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11 New York Thursday, April 21, 2016

Queens man Luis Zambrano blames 'demonic possession' for killing girlfriend, gets prison

A Queens man who blamed "demonic possession" as the reason he killed his girlfriend has been sentenced to up to 28 years in prison.

Luis Zambrano, 31, of Flushing, was sentenced on Tuesday to 25 years for the 2015 manslaughter of his girlfriend, Angie Escobar, and up to three years in an unrelated attempted burglary in 2013, Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced.

"The defendant, who professed to love [Escobar], repeatedly plunged a knife into her body and, to hide his cowardly actions, stuffed her bloody remains in the trunk of her own car," Brown said in a statement.

The medical examiner reported that Zambrano stabbed Escobar around Sept. 6, 2015, and officials found her body stuffed in the trunk of her car, which had been abandoned in Whitestone, Queens, Brown added.

Zambrano NYPD

"If you believe in demonic possession, you'd know I was under the influence of drugs and alcohol, I barely remember what happened," Zambrano said in court during his sentencing, the New York Daily News reported, adding that Escobar had suffered 80 stab wounds from a pair of scissors.

"You have forever changed the lives of everyone in this room. Demonic possession — that's an excuse. You met her for a month and you slaughtered her body ... you didn't give a damn about her," Queens Supreme Court Justice Kenneth Holder was quoted by the Daily News in response to Zambrano's excuse.

Zambrano was arrested on Sept. 18 in Virginia, according to the DA, who added that he waived extradition to New York.

"He was captured just days [after the incident], returned to Queens County, and today the court meted out a sentence that, under the circumstances, is more than warranted," Brown said. JASON NUCKOLLS

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Court rules Iran bank must pay 1983 bomb victims

The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that almost $2 billion in frozen Iranian assets must be turned over to American families of people killed in the 1983 bombing of a U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut and other attacks blamed on Iran.

The court's 6-2 ruling dealt a setback to Iran's central bank, finding that the U.S. Congress did not usurp the authority of American courts by passing a 2012 law stating that the frozen funds should go toward satisfying a $2.65 billion judgment won by the families against Iran in U.S. federal court in 2007.

Bank Markazi had challenged a 2014 ruling by the New York-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the assets, bonds held in a Citibank trust account in New York, should be handed over to the more than 1,000 American plaintiffs.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs said the ruling resolved all the legal issues and they would now ask a federal judge to authorize distribution of money to the plaintiffs.

"We are extremely pleased with the Supreme Court's decision, which will bring long-overdue relief to more than 1,000 victims of Iranian terrorism and their families, many of whom have waited decades for redress," said Ted Olson, a lawyer for the victims.

Jeffrey Lamken, the Iranian bank's attorney, declined to comment.

The plaintiffs have waged a long legal battle seeking compensation for attacks they say Iran orchestrated. Congress inserted itself into the dispute by passing the law to help the plaintiffs obtain the Iranian funds.

The plaintiffs accused Iran of providing material support to Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Shi'ite Islamist political and military group responsible for the 1983 truck bomb attack at the Marine compound in Beirut that killed 241 U.S. service members.

Marines headquarters in Beirut on Oct. 23, 1983, after a car bomb explosion. GETTY IMAGES

They also sought compensation related to other attacks including the 1996 Khobar Towers truck bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 U.S. service members.

The lead plaintiff is Deborah Peterson, whose brother, Marine Lance Corporal James Knipple, died in the Beirut bombing. REUTERS

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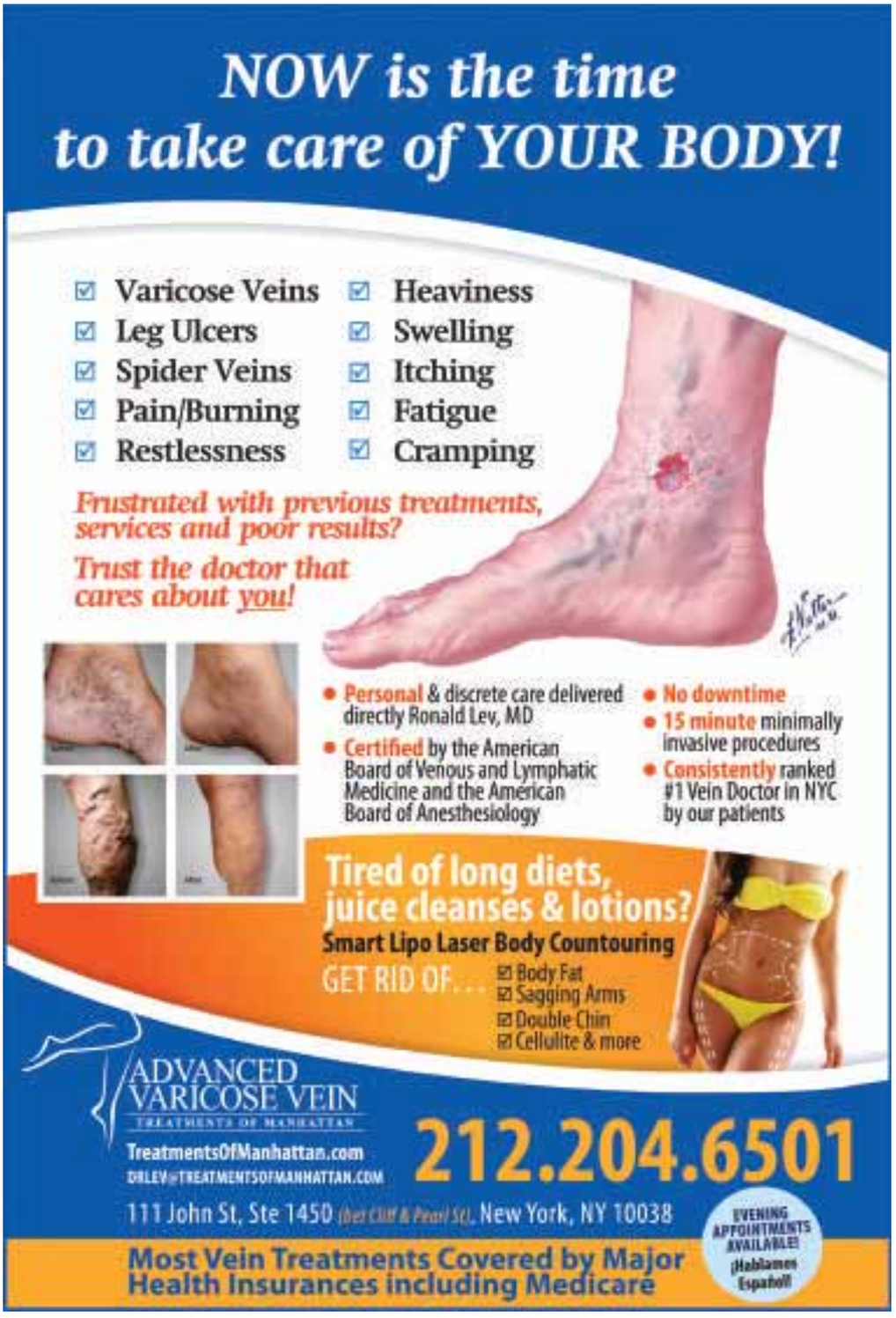
A view of flooded streets in the Kelliwood Park neighborhood of Katy, Texas. GETTY IMAGES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At least eight dead in Houston-area floods; more rain forecast

At least eight people have died and some 1,150 homes have been damaged in flooding triggered by torrential downpours in the Houston area this week, officials said on Wednesday, as forecasts called for more rain.

Seven of those killed were found in vehicles that had been in flooded areas, the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences and a local sheriff said, adding that medical examiners were working to confirm the causes of death.

The National Weather Service said more rain is on tap for the city, the country's fourth largest, after a record-setting drenching that dumped as much as 18 inches on some parts of the Houston area on Monday.

The weather service has issued a flood watch from central Texas through Houston and into large parts of Louisiana.

There have been more than 1,200 water rescues during the recent flooding, with emergency crews shuttling people by boat to dry ground and picking up motorists whose cars were caught in rushing waters.

The Houston Independent School District, the country's seventh-largest school district, said it would reopen on Wednesday after the flooding caused hundreds of schools to close earlier this week.

Heavy storms can overwhelm the drainage channels that move water from Houston back to the Gulf of Mexico, particularly if the ground is already saturated.

The city faced similar widespread flooding during a storm last May and Tropical Storm Allison's torrent in 2001. REUTERS

BRIEF

Five more with bacterial infection have died in Illinois
The Illinois Department of Public Health said that five more people had died after being infected with Elizabethkingia, a disease linked to the deaths of 15 people in neighboring Wisconsin.

The cause of death was not identified as Elizabethkingia because many of those people had underlying health conditions, the department said. Ten Illinois residents have been diagnosed with Elizabethkingia, and six have died.

Symptoms of Elizabethkingia can include fever, shortness of breath and chills or cellulitis, but officials have said that the bacteria are rarely reported to cause illness in humans.

Officials said the Illinois strain of Elizabethkingia differed from the Wisconsin one. The department has asked hospitals to report all cases of Elizabethkingia and save any specimens for possible laboratory testing. REUTERS

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Ex-New Orleans police officers plead guilty in post-Katrina killings

Five ex-New Orleans police officers pleaded guilty on Wednesday to various charges in connection with the killings of two unarmed people in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a federal prosecutor said.

The former officers were convicted in 2011 over an incident in which police fired on unarmed people walking over the city's Danziger Bridge in September 2005. A retrial was later ordered due to prosecutorial misconduct.

They were responding to a report of gunfire after the devastating hurricane flooded the city and triggered looting and other mayhem. In addition to the two people killed, four others were also seriously injured.

Danziger Bridge GETTY IMAGES

Under the plea deal, the four men involved in the shootings — Kenneth Bowen, Robert Faulcon, Robert Gisevius and Anthony Villavaso — pleaded guilty to depriving the victims of their civil rights, obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice, Kenneth Polite, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, said at a new conference.

They were sentenced to prison terms ranging from seven to 12 years, a significant reduction from the initial terms which would have kept them incarcerated for decades.

A fifth former officer, Arthur Kaufman, who was involved in covering up the crimes, was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to obstruct justice and a related count concerning fabricating evidence, Polite said.

"While this is certainly an imperfect resolution, today's proceeding ensures that these five defendants will be held accountable for their criminal actions," Polite said. REUTERS

BRIEF

GM cites progress in ignition-switch case settlement talks

A lawyer for General Motors said the company has made "significant progress" toward resolving lawsuits involving injuries and deaths allegedly linked to a faulty ignition switch that prompted the recall of 2.6 million vehicles.

The automaker has paid about $2 billion in penalties and settlements since the 2014 recalls over the switch, which can slip out of place, causing engine stalls and cutting power to steering, air bag and brake systems.

GM has admitted that some of its employees knew about the switch problems years before a recall was ordered.

"We've made significant progress in terms of discussions and potential resolutions," Richard Godfrey, a lawyer for GM, told U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman during a hearing in Manhattan federal court where federal litigation over the switch has been consolidated.

Robert Hilliard, a lawyer representing injury and death plaintiffs, also told Furman that GM is "actively and successfully settling cases" over the switch. REUTERS

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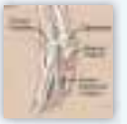

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

NY wins give Trump and Clinton an eye to election

If Trup and Clinton do go on to secure their respective parties' nomination, opinion polls show Clinton with a sizeable lead.

Donald Trump

Hillary Clinton GETTY IMAGES

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton began setting their sights on November's general election on Wednesday, with a new poll showing Clinton would handily win such a matchup.

Trump's crushing defeat of Ted Cruz in Tuesday's party nominating contests in New York tilted the energy in the Republican race back to the frontrunner. Clinton's win over Bernie Sanders, while narrower, broke a string of victories by the democratic socialist and gave her a much-needed lift.

Trump's win marked a rebound from his Wisconsin defeat two weeks ago and set him up for another big night on April 26, when Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware and Maryland will hold primaries.

"Ted Cruz is mathematically out of winning the race," Trump said Wednesday on Twitter. "Now all he can do is be a spoiler, never a nice thing to do. I will beat Hillary!" Trump, 69, predicted some "amazing weeks" ahead for his campaign.

Cruz, a senator from Texas, dismissed his rival's victory in New York as a predictable win.

"Upon winning his home state, Donald, with a characteristic display of humility, declared this race is over," he said during a Pennsylvania campaign stop.

Cruz, who has argued that Trump would lose the election for Republicans, added with scathing irony: "Manhattan has spoken, and if the rest of the voters would quietly go home now and allow him to give the general election to Hillary, all would be better."

Trump, a former reality TV star, has adapted a more measured tone in recent days and appears to be trying to heal wounds inflicted by a campaign that has alarmed many in the Republican establishment. He sent campaign advisers to a Republican National Committee meeting in Hollywood, Florida, starting on Wednesday. REUTERS

Trump leans toward replacing Fed chief if he wins White House

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump would be inclined to replace Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen if he wins the White House despite supporting the U.S. central bank's efforts to keep interest rates low, he told Fortune magazine.

"I think she's done a serviceable job," Trump said in an interview published late on Tuesday, as the billionaire real estate mogul moved a step closer to becoming his party's nominee with a resounding win in the New York state nominating contest.

"I don't want to comment on reappointment, but I would be more inclined to put other people in."

Yellen was nominated for the top Fed job by Democratic President Barack Obama and began her four-year term in February 2014.

In his interview, Trump said he "absolutely" backed efforts to diminish the Fed's power and allow Congress to audit it, and backed away from his pledge to erase the more than $19 trillion in U.S. debt in eight years.

Representatives for the Fed declined to comment on the report.

Trump said he favored the low interest rate environment and that raising rates would be a blow to the U.S. economy. Trump had accused the Fed in November of keeping rates low to help Obama, an assertion the White House rejected. REUTERS

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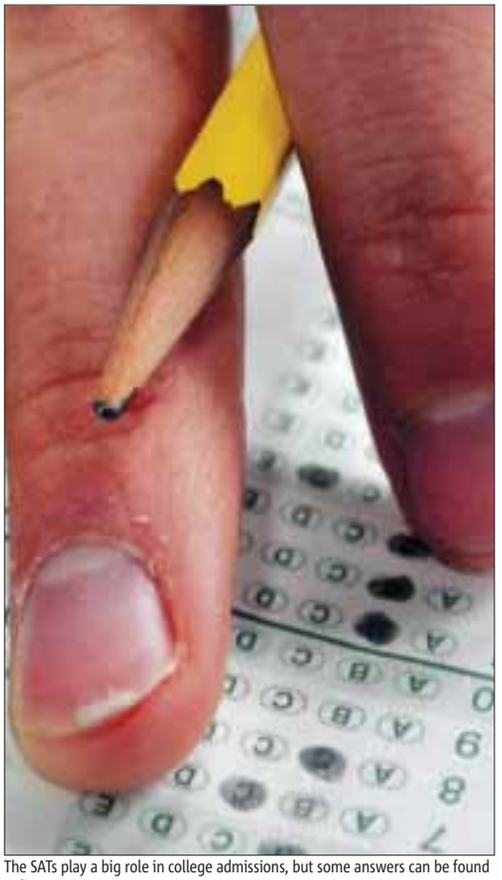

The SATs play a big role in college admissions, but some answers can be found online. GETTY IMAGES

US students given SATs that were online before exam

The SAT is used by thousands of U.S. colleges to help select applicants.

At least five times in the past three years, U.S. high school students were administered SAT tests that included questions and answers widely available online more than a year before they took the exam, a Reuters analysis shows.

Reuters reported last month that the College Board, the nonprofit that owns the college entrance exam, had often reused SATs overseas after first giving the test in America and even after some test questions began to circulate online.

The news agency also reported that the organization had sometimes recycled exams in the United States, including last January. That was during a regular Saturday exam sitting, the day most Americans take the SAT.

But the College Board has recycled SATs more frequently than the occasional Saturday. Reuters found that tests were also reused in the United States during special midweek sittings, on Sundays and during makeup exams, even though some questions and answers from those tests had been discussed online.

A test given on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, for example, previously had been administered in June 2013, Reuters determined. A copy of that test booklet was available in advance on a website called CrackSAT.net.

It's unclear how many students took the exam during the five sittings Reuters identified. The College Board has said that it's unable to assess how many test-takers may have seen recycled exam material online before taking the test.

Reusing test items is common in the standardized test industry. It helps ensure that scores on different versions of an exam are comparable. It also reduces costs.

53K

BETWEEN THE TIME THE BOOKLET WAS POSTED AND EARLY 2015, THE WEBSITE CRACKSAT.NET REPORTED THAT THE DOCUMENT HAD BEEN DOWNLOADED MORE THAN 53,000 TIMES.

But if some test-takers see the exam beforehand, they may gain an unfair advantage and a better chance to secure coveted spots at top universities. That leaves college admissions officers concerned about the validity of scores.

"What I am hearing is there is a growing and vocal voice that is urging the College Board not to recycle tests," said Anne Richardson, who chairs the international advisory committee of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). "I think that is becoming the number one issue in terms of test security." NACAC, a group that includes university admissions officers and high school counselors, has more than 15,000 members.

The NACAC committee brought up the reuse of SATs during a conference call today with the College Board. "They listened, we listened," said Richardson, who is director of college counseling at Kents Hill School in Maine. "We are confident that, together, positive steps are being taken." REUTERS

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How to continue your education without getting an expensive degree

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REENA KARASIN
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Whether you're considering a career change or want to dabble in a new field without spending the time — or forking over the money — for a pricey graduate program, continuing education courses can broaden your horizons. Here are five places to get back in the classroom and hone valuable skills.

The New School

The New School offers semester-long courses both online and at its campuses on everything from management and entrepreneurship to art and design. Students can choose from certificate programs such as organization development," credit classes and non-credit classes. Courses for spring 2016 include The Basics of Investment ($650, online), Restaurant Ownership: From Startup to Profitability ($650, Siteline campus) and Digital Imaging with Photoshop ($699, New York City campus).

The Cooper Union

Cooper Union offers 10-week courses (eight or nine weeks for the summer session) in creative and technical skills. One of Cooper Union's focuses is digital fabrication — using software to design and manufacture products — which Director of Continuing Education David Greenstein says has become an essential skill: "It's changing the way people do things just as much as the steam engine changed things. It's going to be a crucial technology for so many different fields." To increase your skills set, take a class on digital 3-D modeling ($690), or on using Arduino ($490), a versatile microcontroller used by engineers and artists alike.

The Cooper Union GETTY IMAGES

The City University of New York

The City University of New York (CUNY) hosts courses and certificate programs at its numerous campuses. Those looking to break into an in-demand field at a reasonable price might be interested in the graphic design and Web design certificate ($6,300 total for 17 courses) or the business communication certificate ($3,400 total for 10 courses). Those who prefer a standalone class have options such as Adobe CS6 Beginner: Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign ($150, 11 sessions) or Accounting Fundamentals ($275, 12 sessions).

QUEST Learning Community

Located in NYC and designed for retired adults, QUEST offers fall, spring and summer sessions filled with courses on government, literature, technology and more. A $500 annual membership allows students to take as many QUEST courses as they'd like. Members can brush up on their Shakespeare, learn about the Supreme Court or take a class called Economics and Society.

92nd Street Y

Check out Public Speaking: A Crash Course ($140, four sessions), Does the Federal Reserve Make Foreign Policy? ($30, one session), Taking Your First steps in Career Transition ($30, one session) and more at 92Y, where there are courses to satisfy everyone from the soon-to-be parent to the burgeoning artist. Director of Adult Programs Christine Chen says in an email that the 92Y is "a place where people can pursue their passions in a huge range of areas, from history to jewelry making to public speaking, whether they are learning something new or achieving mastery of something that they already love."

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NY Knicks help young hoops fans train like the pros

A summer basketball camp teaches kids how to work as a team, on the court and off.

REENA KARASIN
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Knicks player Langston Galloway high-fives campers who've come to train with the pros. ADAM PANTOZZI/MSG PHOTOS

There may be no greater thrill for young basketball fans than having the opportunity to train with the stars of their favorite team. This summer marks 25 years of the Knicks Summer Basketball Camp, giving kids that chance by connecting young players with basketball legends.

The camp has eight sessions, — in New York City, Bronxville and East Hampton, and in Millburn, New Jersey — each of which lasts three to four days and features current and former Knicks players and coaches. The camp is designed for girls and boys between seven and 17 years old, and can accommodate various levels of experience. The $500 price tag includes lunches, uniforms and special giveaways. Past Knicks guests have included Arron Afflalo, Kristaps Porzingis, John Starks and Langston Galloway.

"It's really getting a grasp on the fundamentals of the game of basketball and how hard you have to work in order to improve in those areas that make you a very solid basketball player," says Starks, a former shooting guard who played for the Knicks from 1990-1998. "Whether you want to play from elementary to junior high to high school to college and maybe have an opportunity to play as a pro, we just want you to develop those fundamentals."

Each day at the Knicks Camp consists of drills, games and guest speakers from the NBA. According to Starks, the camp focuses on cementing basic basketball skills necessary for any player, and emphasizes the importance of teamwork.

One of the camp's main goals is to promote teamwork. Says Starks, "That's our number one thing as coaches. Within that teamwork obviously you have a lot of individual players, but teams in any sport that you see, whether it's football, baseball, basketball, whatever sport, requires team effort."

While being careful to balance individual team spirit with a friendly overall environment, the camp staff divides the 100-150 campers into teams on the first day based on age and skill level. The typical breakdown is about 70 percent boys and 30 percent girls, and boys and girls play on teams together.

Starks says his favorite memory from the camp is of helping a team that didn't win any games during what the camp calls its regular season, but then went on to win the playoffs.

"You're teaching them not to give up and keep pushing and keep working hard," Starks says.

For more information:

Call 212-631-5796 or visit NBA.com/knicks/community/2016-knicks-summer-basketball-camp

John Starks serves as a role model at the Knicks summer basketball camp. JARED SILBER/MSG PHOTOS

Camp-Inspired SeriousFun Messtival Splatters Fun in Prospect Park

WRITTEN BY:
A.P. SINGER

Ready to act like a kid again? Then snag your ticket to SeriousFun Messtival, a messy, camp-themed event hitting NYC this summer!

On Saturday, June 25th, SeriousFun Children's Network (SeriousFun) – founded by actor and philanthropist Paul Newman – will kick off their first-ever messy, camp-inspired celebration, SeriousFun Messtival, benefitting the camps and programs around the world that provide life-changing camp experiences to children living with serious illness – always free of charge.

The inaugural Messtival, taking place in Brooklyn's Prospect Park from 9am – 3pm, will burst with epic camp-inspired activities like a human tie-dye machine, paint archery, and a mile-long, vibrantly colorful SeriousFun Run.

Mary Beth Powers, CEO of SeriousFun Children's Network said, "SeriousFun Messtival is our opportunity to share the magical spirit of camp with families and young people, and help children living with serious illness experience the fun they so deserve – even if the fun gets messy."

SeriousFun, which started as one camp in 1988, has grown into a global community of 30 camps and programs where children and their families can reach beyond illness to discover joy, confidence and new world of possibilities. Facilities and programming at SeriousFun camps are skillfully adapted to fit the medical conditions of the campers, ensuring that all campers can participate in any activity, like climbing a rock wall, exploring ropes courses, and cultivating creativity through arts and crafts.

Bringing SeriousFun camp activities to life, the Messtival will give NYC families and millennials the opportunity to experience their own seriously fun, messy camp day while supporting such an impactful organization.

Brooklynites who are not bright eyed and bushy-tailed enough to make the Saturday morning 9am SeriousFun Run will still have the rest of the day for fun -- whether it's snacking on sticky, gooey s'mores, grooving to awesome music on the main stage, or getting three chances to dunk their friend or parent (or boss?) in a giant dunk tank.

You'll have as much fun at the SeriousFun Messtival on Saturday, June 25 as these kids do at SeriousFun camps!

Fans of the campy fun can share their messy photos and videos on social media with #SeriousFunMesstival, challenging friends to share their own photos and donate to SeriousFun, and tagging @SeriousFunCamps on Twitter and Facebook, and @SeriousFun_Camps on Instagram.

To attend SeriousFun Messtival and dash through the SeriousFun Run, participants can make a donation to SeriousFun -- $35 for adults and $15 for kids -- at **SeriousFunMesstival.com.**

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Is Liam Hemsworth lying about wedding plans?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Last week Liam Hemsworth flat out denied all those rumors that he and reunited girlfriend Miley Cyrus' wedding plans are back on, telling an Australian magazine that he is definitely not engaged. And you'd think that he of all people would know. But an anonymous source in cahoots with Radar Online would beg to differ. "They are fully underway planning their upcoming wedding," the source breathlessly reports. Oh, and there are apparently details, so dig these: "Miley and Liam want to have a summer wedding and they plan to hold the celebration close to their homes in Malibu," the source says. "Miley's parents have already offered to pay for the nuptials." Well, that's awfully nice of them, hypothetically. "[Miley's mom] Tish really wants the two of them to get married so that they can start making grandkids for her." Oh. Oh, I see. You know, I'm starting to get an idea of who exactly this anonymous source might be.

Kelly Ripa not taking Michael Strahan's news very well

Earlier this week, Michael Strahan announced he's leaving "Live with Kelly and Michael" in September to become a co-anchor at "Good Morning America," and if that news caught you off-guard, imagine how Kelly Ripa feels. I mean, you'll have to imagine, since she flat-out didn't show up to work Wednesday, one day after the news broke. Sources tell TMZ Ripa is livid over not having any advance word about the move, and she spent Wednesday at home fuming and feeling humiliated. And really, can you blame her? She's the co-host whose been there longer — and whose name comes first in the title — so you couldn't give her at least a little advance notice before the press release comes out? That's cold, Strahan. That's cold.

Mariah Carey and the very specific costume party

Oh, Mariah Carey. Don't ever change. The eccentric diva threw an "intimate" party at her rented villa in Italy recently at which attendees were expected to abide by a very, very strict dress code: dress up as Mariah Carey. Both male and female attendees, even. Yup, Carey insisted on a whole room full of tributes to her various looks, and if anyone can pull off such a demand, it's Mariah. But Carey herself, never one to risk coming in second in a costume contest — even if she is, in fact, the real article — did not go as herself. Instead, she reintroduced her black-clad, stiletto-heeled alter ego, Bianca. Because of course she did. Again, ma'am, please, don't ever change.

Tina Fey tried to get an "Into the Woods" audition

Stars, they're just like us — aware of how desperate they look, but often too late. Tina Fey humbly admits that when she was between making "30 Rock" and "the Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" and had some time on her hands, she tried stretching herself a bit — namely by trying to get an audition for "Into the Woods" by hounding director Rob Marshall. "I tried to talk my way into that movie," she revealed during a recent Tribeca Film Festival talk. "I did that thing you never do, where I'm like, 'May I please audition?' And it's like, 'They knew where you were, sweetheart. They'd have found you if they wanted you to audition.'" Don't be so hard on yourself, lady. At least when the next musical comes around, they'll know you might be up for it.

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Sorry, sexist haters: Oscar nominee Felicity Jones is probably going to be amazing in "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story." LUCASFILM

Yes, 'Rogue One' stars a woman — get over it

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

People are freaking out about the fact that "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" stars a woman. Well, not just because it stars a woman. It's because "The Force Awakens" did as well.

Now, last time I checked there were more than a few men among the "Force Awakens" main cast: Finn, Poe Dameron, Kylo Ren, General Hux, Han Solo and Chewbacca. Meanwhile, besides Rey there were only General Leia Organa, Captain Phasma and Maz Kanata for the female cast. That's more men than women. Which is not, by the way, a complaint — merely a statement of fact.

Also, let's just mention that the lead in "Rogue One" may be a woman, but there are a ton of male characters as well. In fact, Felicity Jones is really the only featured woman in the trailer other than a brief glimpse of Mon Mothma. So, why is everyone freaking out?

Excellent question. No one freaked out when the star of the prequels, all three of them, was a man after the lead in the first trilogy was also a man. Yet all I got online was grumbling about how there are too many ladies and how we're all being too PC and will Han Solo's film star a woman as well?

Of course, some of these guys are just jerks. Others really seem to be upset. We're still not used to seeing female leads that often, despite the "Hunger Games" movies and "Mad Max: Fury Road." This is why we talk about representation. One guy on Twitter told me that he couldn't relate to the new film because the lead was a woman. Welcome to the life of every girl, every minority and every LGBT person, buddy. It matters that you get to see yourself up there. Did you freak out when yet another superhero film was led by a man? No? Hmm, why is that?

That's why this is important. Studios, keep casting female leads as well as male leads. We're 51 percent of the population. Did you know that? I have to ask because you didn't seem to know that before. Thank you, Disney, for keeping Kathleen Kennedy's promise. Thank you for getting the world used to this. Thank you for another female lead.

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GETTY IMAGES

Johnny Knoxville's gotta love the king

In "Elvis & Nixon," the "Jackass" legend is just glad to be part of the Presley posse.

MATT PRIGGE
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matt.prigge@metro.us

In "Elvis & Nixon," Johnny Knoxville doesn't play The King but he gets close enough: The "Jackass" alum plays Sonny West, part of the "Memphis Mafia," as he joins Michael Shannon's Elvis on one of the odder stories of his career: the time he went to the White House for a meeting with Richard Nixon (Kevin Spacey). Even Knoxville can't believe it's real.

I don't want to just assume you're a massive Elvis fan, since you probably are.
I'm from Tennessee. Elvis was obviously Elvis, but in Tennessee he was even bigger, if that's possible. My sisters were 8 and 10 years old, and they were huge Elvis fans. I just grew up that way.

Playing one of his posse is close enough to playing Elvis, I'd guess.
I'm almost sleeping with him. I've almost slept with him by doing this.

I like that Michael Shannon's not doing the usual Elvis impersonation.
It's an Elvis no one's ever seen before. Michael Shannon is one of if not *the* best actor of his generation. When he and Kevin Spacey would go at it, it was like watching Ali and Frazier, if Ali and Frazier were helping each other instead of hitting each other. It was tough to stay in character because I was so excited by what they were dong.

Making a film about this story is great, too, because Elvis seems so removed from the rest of the species that you can't tell how sincere he is about asking Nixon to become a federal agent.
He sincerely wanted a federal badge. [Laughs] It didn't give him the power he wanted, but most of his objectives were achieved. So is he crazy for thinking he could show up at the White House and get a meeting with the president? I don't know. He did it! His reality was so different from ours.

Celebrities aren't quite as out there as Elvis was then. They might be a little more

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In "Elvis & Nixon," Johnny Knoxville does more than don bushy hair as Sonny West, member of Elvis Presley's (Michael Shannon) "Memphis Mafia." BROAD GREEN

grounded because there's more connectivity with fans through the Internet.
Well, I don't know. Some are pretty bananas. [Laughs] There's some f—ing nut jobs out there. It's different now. You can't walk into the president's office with a gift that's a gun anymore. Those days are behind us.

It must be fun to get to dress up in period garb.
Oh my god, I love that side of it. My house, I have a whole closet of the costumes we had from "Jackass" or whatever. I just keep them. I have the big chops [from "Elvis & Nixon"]. And I had pubes that grew past my belly button.

I wasn't expecting to talk about pubes first thing in the morning.
I went deep into character. I had a shag carpet of hair from my belly button down to under below and thigh-to-thigh.

Let's get serious about 'Jackass'

Sort of a gear-shift: I was wondering if you've read the serious and academic writing about "Jackass." There's a fair amount of it.
I've read some of it. It's just people's interpretations of what we do. It's pretty entertaining. I don't know. Discussing it as art, it's not my job. [Laughs] We just do it and then there's how people perceive it.

I saw a documentary recently about the performance artist Chris Burden, "Burden," and belatedly realized both he and you got yourselves shot for art.
Yeah. Chris Burden, big fan.

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New Utrecht Library, 1743 86th St., Brooklyn	Sat., April 30 | 12:30-2pm
Sheepshead Bay Library, 2636 E. 14th St., Brooklyn	Sat., April 30 | 3:30-5pm
Central Library/Info Commons, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn	Sun., May 1 | 2-3:30pm
Woodside Library, 54-32 Skillman Ave., Queens	Mon., May 2 | 12-2pm
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Celebrity life goes on display

The Olsen Twins Hiding from the Paparazzi Museum is here, but it's really about you.

EVA KIS
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Meeting a celebrity in real life is always a risky proposition, but it's a rite of passage for fans. Viviana Olen was just 7 when she met Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen — who turned out to be nothing like on TV.

"We waited in line for, like, three hours, and we just kind of passed by them and they looked so tired and so sad," she recalls. "And I remember thinking as a kid, 'This is bad, bad what I'm doing.'"

That "jarring" feeling returned when she came across Chicago-based artist Laura Collins' paintings of the Olsen twins shielding their faces from the paparazzi. "Anybody today, whether you're a performer or not, you always feel like you have to put everything out there just to exist. So it's absolutely shocking when we can't see things," she says.

A successful Kickstarter later, the Olsen Twins Hiding from the Paparazzi Museum opens on Friday for two weeks in a former Williamsburg doctor's office. To be clear: The exhibit is not about the Olsens. Their lives are "not for us," Olen says. Though there is a memorabilia room, they're making it "as creepy as we can." The events and art (contributions, including a glitter interpretation of Kylie Jenner's aura have poured in since the project first made headlines) are all takes on how we interact with the celebrity world, from real people to reality TV. You can confess secrets to Lisa Vanderpump's portrait in 10-second Snapchats, take a selfie with your own twin in a mirrored photobooth and get academic at the Real Housewives Symposium.

"We do these exhibits because they're really, really fun," she says. "We're adamant that if we're making fun of anybody, we're making fun of ourselves."

But the real joy of the museum for Olen will be meeting the people who come (admission is free!).

"The '90s was like a 'High Fidelity' kind of vibe where it was like, with record stores, 'Oh, you don't know this thing? You don't love this thing?' Some weird guy decided what's cool," she says.

Now, there's more to like, and it's easier to find your tribe. "Celebrities are important to everyone," Olen says. "It takes a really cynical person to think, 'That's stupid.' People like what they like, and therefore it has value."

If you go

THNK 1994
April 22-May 1
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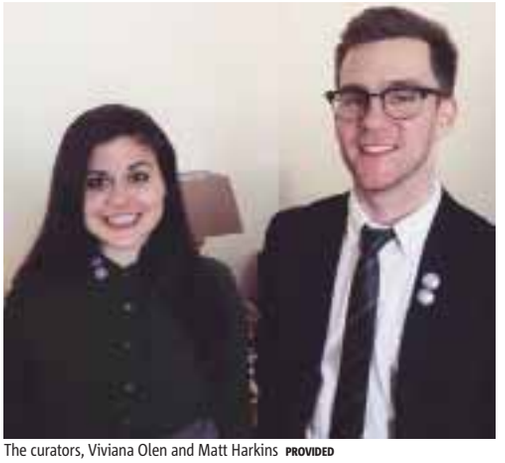
Laura Collins' paintings inspired the museum. **LAURA COLLINS**



The curators, Viviana Olen and Matt Harkins **PROVIDED**

The Land of Milk and Honey **AMPLE HILLS CREAMERY, TWITTER**

Don't pass over this matzo

Few food substitutions are as maligned at the annual exchanging of breads and baked goods for matzo during the two weeks of Passover. But the unleavened cracker is getting some creative love from chefs around the city.

Matzo hasn't had a glamorous run, but Brooklyn's The Matzo Project is out to change that. The factory opened just in time for Passover, but supplies of their hand-rolled, coconut oil-kissed matzo in flavors like sea salt and "everything" are tight. One place to find it is at **Ample Hills Creamery**, in a honey ice cream with "matzo crack cookies" (their description). The Land of Milk & Honey is already available online, and will arrive in shops Friday.

Vegan food became a lot more, well, edible in the hands of chef Chloe Coscarelli at **By Chloe** (185 Bleecker St.) The chef, who's Jewish, created an eggless version of matzo brei using silken tofu, fresh spinach and mushrooms, topped with a drizzle of maple syrup for the perfect mix of sweet and savory.

Vic's (31 Great Jones St., NoHo) is reprising its "secret Passover meal" from last year. With the Seder Hamishi, chef Hillary Sterling is re-creating a Spanish Inquisition-era secret meal that Christians would prepare for their Jewish neighbors when they couldn't observe the holiday. Among the mains is braised goat with couscous made of matzo, topped with almonds and dill. The à la carte menu will be served on Tuesday, the fifth day of Passover.

Chef Julian Medina came to New York from Mexico in 1996 and converted to Judaism for his wife. For Passover at **Toloache** (Toloachenyc.com), he's created an a la carte menu (April 22-30) that combines their cultures, including braised brisket tacos with avocado and chipotle salsa on matzo tortillas ($13).

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$69-$109, Baconandbeerclassic.com
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RAZBERRY PHOTOGRAPHY

MUSIC

Talib Kweli's Bowl Train

April 21, 11:30 p.m.
Brooklyn Bowl, 61 Wythe Ave.
$7-$10, Brooklynbowl.com
Questlove is ceding his regular Thursday night DJ duty for a special one-night appearance by hip-hop master Talib Kweli, fresh from his trip to the White House. If you act early, you can get $7 tickets and grab a good spot when the doors open at 11.

GAME

'Indiana Jones' Drinking Game

April 21, 8 p.m.
Littlefield
622 Degraw St., Brooklyn
$8-$10, Littlefieldnyc.com
Drinking at home and watching cult classics on Netflix is a respectable way to pass the weekend. But you can step up your game at Littlefield's A Drinking Game, a monthly event where viewers gather to watch a troupe of actors read a movie script, prepared with a list of select buzzwords and phrases. The actors (and you) drink along, plus they drink extra when their characters' names are said, and at a certain point it becomes clear that anything can happen.

WINE

'Being #2'

April 21-22
Joseph Gross Gallery
548 W. 28th St.
$35-$45, Corsicainnewyork.eventbrite.com
The wines of Corsica and art have two nights to indulge in both at the Joseph Gross Gallery. While sipping over 50 varietals from the lush island under Italy and France, guests can peruse two exhibitions: Jean-Joseph Renucci's photos of scenes starring miniature figurines, while Jerome Jouve offers a video installation about the island and its artisans. There will also be light bites, like cheese and oysters, as well as a live DJ.

ARTS

The Shakespeare Sonnet Slam

April 22, 1 p.m.
Naumburg Bandshell, Central Park
Free, Sonnetslam.com
Shakespeare's known for his plays, but his sonnets have worked a charm for romantics for centuries. Hear all 154 performed by 154 readers at Shakespeare Sonnet Slam, now in its sixth year. The cast of Broadway's "Something Rotten!" will also perform a number from the Shakespeare-centric musical.

FOOD

Earth Day at the Musket Room

April 22, 6-10:30 p.m.
Musket Room, 265 Elizabeth St.
$75-$165, Musketroom.com
The most romantic thing you could possibly do for Earth Day is go to chef Matt Lambert's candlelit dining event, now in its third year. The restaurant will turn off its power and serve raw dishes with optional wine pairings. Seatings take place every 15 minutes for a menu of dishes like scallops and venison tartar, plus Lambert's signature Ora King Salmon.

The Big Cheesy

April 23-24
Open House Gallery, 168 Bowery
$30, Openhouse.me
Grilled cheese is a deceptive treat. It can go from a five-minute meal to one of the most sophisticated sandwiches you'll ever eat. The Big Cheesy invites restaurants to create their best rendition, as determined by attendees. This weekend, taste the five contenders (including reigning champ Artisanal, Sons of Essex and Hudson Commons) over a few cold Goose Islands. Partial proceeds go to Food Bank NY.

Taste of the Nation

April 25, 7-9 p.m.
225 Liberty, 225 Liberty St.
$250, Nokidhungry.org
Be a part of the movement to make sure every child in America has enough to eat each day. The event lets you mingle with culinary celebs (Food Network is a sponsor) while tasting delicious bites by some of the city's most popular restaurants and sipping wine and cocktails from top sommeliers and mixologists. This year also premieres a Rosé Garden and Passover-inspired fare. VIP tickets get you an inside an hour early for $400.

WINE

Le Grand Cercle

April 27, 6-9 p.m.
Pier A, 22 Battery Place
$45-$55
Bordeauxinnewyork2016.eventbrite.com
You won't need to pack your French field guide to get a complete sense of the tastes of Bordeaux when Le Grand Cercle returns to NYC for its fourth year. With 22 regional wineries represented, attendees will actually be among the first to taste many of 2015's "en primeur" barrels. There will also be music, finger food from local restaurants, and the chance to speak with some of the world's finest winemakers. New this year, guests can buy their favorite wines directly from sellers at the event.

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Fodor's Travel

10 Best amusement parks for 2016

The Wizarding World Of Harry Potter opened this month at Universal Studios Hollywood. GETTY IMAGES

An incredible crop of roller coasters and thrilling attractions are set to debut this summer, reaffirming the ever-growing demand to push the boundaries of theme-park physics. With Harry Potter's expansion to Hollywood and the debut of the world's first wooden launch coaster, 2016 is sure to be an incredible year. ZACHARY LAKS

Universal Studios Hollywood

Universal City, California
Main Attraction: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter

Boy wonder Harry Potter has triumphantly arrived in California this month by way of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, a massive expansion of Universal Studios Hollywood that re-creates many of the elements of the original park in Orlando that opened in 2010. Anticipation is running high for the California outpost that transports guests to Hogsmeade village, the iconic Hogwarts castle and The Three Broomsticks for a pint of Butterbeer. As for the attractions, Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, a favorite in Orlando, receives some fine enhancements in its new iteration, including 3-D video projections.

Lake Compounce

Bristol, Connecticut
Main Attraction: Phobia Phear Coaster

Joining the ranks of its top-rated wooden coaster Boulder Dash, the small and charming Lake Compounce is ready for a banner summer with its new triple launch Phobia Phear Coaster. The first of its kind in the Northeast, the hybrid coaster takes on a pretzel-like formation, rocketing riders in a pendulum at speeds that reach 65 mph before leveling out at 150 feet for a cobra roll inversion and intense vertical twist dive. It's an exciting year for the park, as it adds its second banner coaster, after Boulder Dash initially put the park on the map. The speedy coaster features an extended out-and-back track and is the first to be built into the side of a mountain, surprising riders with unexpected fast drops and turns that snake through the forest terrain.

Cedar Point

Sandusky, Ohio
Main Attraction: Valravn

Safeguarding its title as the roller coaster capital of the world, Cedar Point welcomes its 17th, Valravn, this summer. Unique in design and in layout, Valravn features an ultrawide train with eight seats across three rows. With a terrifying 90-degree, 214-foot drop, the coaster is the world's tallest and fastest of its kind, reaching speeds up to 75 mph as it clips through three inversions. No visit to Cedar Point is complete without testing your mettle on Millennium Force, the park's signature giga coaster. The coaster extends 310 feet into the clouds before a drop that accelerates up to an insane 93 mph.

Knott's Berry Farm

Buena Park California
Main Attraction: GhostRider

A California classic, few parks honor tradition like Knott's Berry Farm, where classic chicken dinners and boysenberry pie remain perennial favorites. With an impressive collection of hair-raising coasters and thrill rides, the park improves on one of its standbys this summer, renovating its wooden coaster GhostRider. Refurbished and revamped to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the park's Ghost Town, the new iteration of the coaster will feature mine-car-themed Millennium Flyer trains as well as a new track.

Dollywood

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
Main Attraction: Lightning Rod

Breaking barriers and world records, Dollywood continues to innovate with Lightning Rod, the world's first wooden launch coaster, which will also clock in as the world's fastest wooden coaster. Reaching new thresholds as limits are tested at 73 mph, the hot rod-themed coaster will feature a 73-degree, 200-foot drop, and 12 airtime hills. With Southern charm to spare, the Dolly Parton-centric park excels with its live entertainment, deep-fried delicacies and a wide array of family attractions.

Busch Gardens

Tampa, Florida
Main Attraction: Cobra's Curse

It's all about the spin this summer at Busch Gardens Tampa, one of the country's largest zoological institutions with over 2,700 animals, as Cobra's Curse is unveiled as the park's fifth roller coaster. The spinning coaster begins with a 70-foot ascent before an encounter with an 80-foot-tall serpent. Freely spinning on a steel track, every ride on the coaster is unique, as each four-seat train reaches 40 mph through sharp drops and heavily banked turns. For something even more thrilling, head over to Falcon's Fury, the country's tallest free-standing drop tower, completed in 2014. Once riders are at the top, the seats tilt forward, facing down. What follows is an exhilarating five-second free-fall back to Earth at speeds reaching 60 mph.

Kentucky Kingdom

Louisville, Kentucky
Main Attraction: Storm Chaser

A park that has roared back to life since its reopening in 2014 under new ownership, Kentucky Kingdom adds a fifth coaster to its roster this year with Storm Chaser. Continuing a recent trend of converting aged wooden coasters into steel-track/wood hybrids, the park converted a portion of the dormant Twisted Twins dueling coaster into the new hybrid coaster. A feat of engineering, expect stunning inversions on Storm Chaser, namely its first-in-the-country barrel roll drop from a 10-story lift hill.

Playland's Castaway Cove

Ocean City, New Jersey
Main Attraction: GaleForce

Bringing next-level thrills to the New Jersey shore, Castaway Cove is set to unveil one of the most advanced coasters ever seen on a boardwalk with GaleForce. The powerful triple-launch steel coaster rockets a single train at 64 mph up to 125 feet above the beachfront into a stomach-churning 100-degree beyond-vertical drop. What follows is an unrelenting, tightly wound track that features a corked roll, a raven dive and a top-hat twist.

Six Flags Magic Mountain

Valencia, California
Main Attraction: The New Revolution Virtual Reality Coaster

Revamping classics into new thrill wonders has become Six Flags Magic Mountain's stock-in-trade, with last year's Twisted Colossus rising from the structure of the park's classic Colossus. Hoping lightning will strike twice, the park unveils its newest roller coaster refurbishment, the New Revolution. Pioneering what is being dubbed a "virtual reality roller coaster," the New Revolution will be among the first coasters in the country to partner with Samsung Gear VR and Oculus. In a scene straight out of a science fiction movie, riders will don wireless headsets, entering into a virtual world of high-resolution, 360-view scenes that sync with the action of the coaster. In addition to the new headsets, the trains have been retooled with more comfortable, modern lap bars engineered for the coaster's 90-foot high giant loop.

El Toro at Six Flags Great Adventure ROLLERCOASTERPHILOSOPHY, FLICKR

Six Flags Great Adventure

Jackson, New Jersey
Main Attraction: The Joker

The tristate area's calling card for top thrills, Six Flags Great Adventure expands its impressive lineup of coasters this summer with a new 4-D Free Spin coaster, The Joker. Featuring high-tech magnetic engineering, the coaster's five vehicles allow riders the stomach-churning sensation of weightlessness as free-fly flips make every ride on the coaster unique. No stranger to intense G-forces, the park is home to the Kingda Ka, the world's tallest and second-fastest roller coaster, and El Toro, a wooden coaster featuring one of the steepest wooden drops in the world.

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Charming and picturesque, New England exudes a one-of-a-kind coziness that you can experience across the mountains, forests and coastline of the six states that comprise this region. Another feature we like: top-tier resorts, some of which date from the 1870s, that remain steadfast escapes for urban dwellers looking to add an old-world air to their holiday. From oceanfront treasures to contemporary mountain-bound estates, the gilded doors of New England's most luxe resorts await your arrival. ZACHARY LAKS

Omni Mount Washington Resort JOHN SINAL

Omni Mount Washington Resort

Bretton Woods, New Hampshire

Few resorts in the country can compare to the grand style of this Omni, a landmark resort set amid New Hampshire's White Mountains. Operating since 1902, the 200-room Spanish Renaissance-style retreat excels as a luxe family destination with an incredible roster of daily activities year-round. Summer activities for all ages include a tour through the resort's 464 acres to spot the local moose, river tubing down the scenic Ammonoosuc River, and miles of bike paths throughout the mountains. The resort also features a top-of-the-line 25,000-square-foot spa, where local botanicals from the mountains are infused into many of the products used in the treatments.

Wentworth by the Sea

New Castle, New Hampshire

A historic coastal retreat that dates back to 1874, Wentworth by the Sea stands as one of the country's few surviving Gilded Age hotels and remains the last on a seacoast. The iconic hotel features 161 guest rooms and suites, decorated in the stately elegance of a fine classic beach house. Make sure to note that you want a seaside balcony, as sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean while sipping your morning coffee complete the Wentworth experience.

The Inn at Mill Falls

Meredith, New Hampshire

Once a linen mill in the 19th century, now converted into a 54-room family retreat, The Inn and Spa at Mill Falls stands out for its old-fashioned charm and new-age sensibilities. Situated on the banks of the serene 72-square-mile Lake Winnipesaukee, the hotel makes good use of the lake, with kayaks and paddleboards available for rent. Guests also have the chance to board the hotel's pride, Miss Meredith, a 28-foot 1931 Triple Cockpit Chris Craft runabout that offers a thrilling speedboat tour of the lake in season.

The Chanler at Cliff Walk

Newport, Rhode Island

Off the banks of Easton Bay sits The Chanler at Cliff Walk, with arguably Newport's best ocean views. Built in 1873 as a residence for Congressman John Winthrop, the Gilded Era estate now features 20 uniquely decorated guest rooms with interiors that mix Gothic, Renaissance and English Tudor styles. Refined with coastal luxury, The Chanler offers a few unique amenities to its guests — for the full experience, make reservations for upscale ocean-vista dining at The Spiced Pear in the estate, where tasting menus offer the best of New England flavor.

Ocean House

Westerly, Rhode Island

A crowning achievement in Victorian style, Ocean House has a long history on the shores of Watch Hill with its original hotel dating back to 1868. Having been demolished and reimagined from the ground up, the new Ocean House was unveiled in 2010 with 49 guest rooms and 23 residential suites. The beachfront property exudes New England luxury at every turn; highlights include a private beach with butler service, croquet and squash courts, and even complimentary access to one of four Mercedes-Benz convertibles for a spin through town.

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Rangers' offensive woes threaten to derail team's Stanley Cup hopes

New York faces an important game at home Thursday, trailing the Penguins 2-1.

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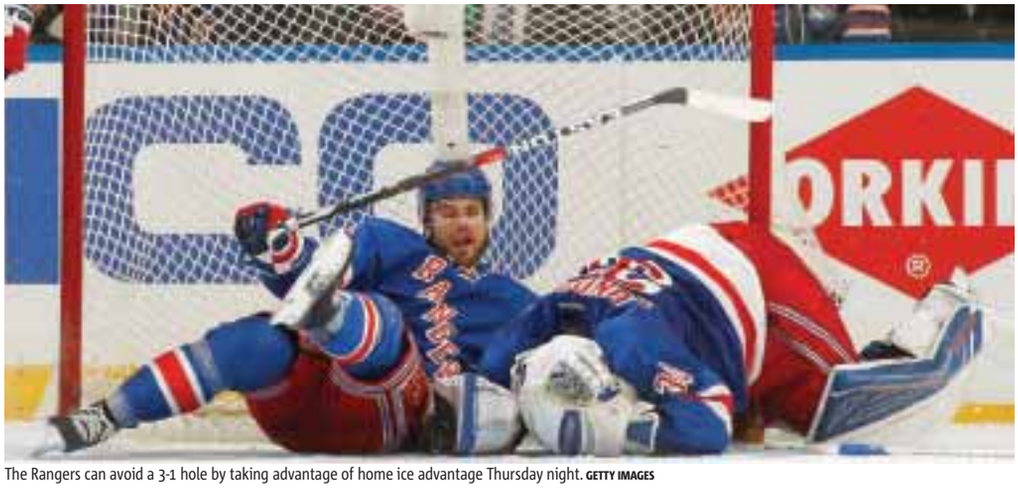

The Rangers can avoid a 3-1 hole by taking advantage of home ice advantage Thursday night. GETTY IMAGES

It's hard to determine who to credit for Tuesday's Game 3 Penguins victory against the Rangers in New York.

Sure, rookie netminder Matt Murray was stellar and looked like he belonged on playoff ice despite being just 21-years old. But he only faced 17 Rangers shots, allowing just one from Rick Nash to squeak through.

And barely any of the 17 were good shots.

So where is the Rangers offense?

Defenseman Ryan McDonagh returned in Game 3's 3-1 setback after missing the first two games of the series, and he can see there is a big problem for New York moving forward if they can't create more quality chances.

"We kept saying it, we kept telling ourselves, we had to lay it in and shoot it," McDonagh said. "I'm sure we'll look at some things when we watch the game and wish we had put more pucks on the net especially because it was his [Murray's] first game in a while."

The Penguins have yet to lose in three games at Madison Square Garden this season and if they move their Manhattan record to 4-0 the Rangers will have their backs against the wall with a possible decisive Game 5 in Pittsburgh this weekend.

In order to even things up at two on Thursday, a 7 p.m. start on MSG, the Rangers need to play their game offensively and not let Pittsburgh dictate play in the neutral zone (and thus limiting Rangers scoring opportunities).

"That's the biggest thing we have to learn from tonight, more so than anything," Derek Stepan said Tuesday. "We did a terrible job of getting through the neutral zone and that is exactly the reason why we didn't get a single look the whole third period, because we did such a poor job of coming through the neutral zone."

Sometimes it's the simple things. And for New York, a return to masterful play through sound fundamentals could save their season. When the puck drops Thursday, it could be "now or never."

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The Nets are moving forward with Brook Lopez as a building block. GETTY IMAGES

Situation with Nets is not entirely dire

Hiring of new coach may be a giant step in the right direction.

TONY WILLIAMS
@TBone8
sports@metro.us

The Brooklyn Nets have run the gamut in recent years regarding successes and failures.

Whether it was their brazen owner Mikhail Prokhorov erroneously guaranteeing a championship within five years, the all-in fire sale of draft picks that brought in aging former stars in order to reach those lofty goals or the recent crash and burn in the standings and coaching carousel, the Nets have not lacked for drama.

But with Sunday's hiring of longtime assistant coach Kenny Atkinson, it seems like the Nets are finally trying to display stability. Atkinson, who is currently the Atlanta Hawks assistant coach and a former longtime assistant on a couple of Knicks' staffs, won't be available to fully immerse himself in the Nets' culture until the fourth-seeded Hawks are finished with the playoffs.

The new foundation was laid in mid-February when Sean Marks was hired to be the general manager. The former NBA forward was groomed for this very position during his years spent in the San Antonio Spurs' front office. And if anything has been learned over the last 15-plus seasons in San Antonio, the Spurs know how to develop a roster and nurture a winning environment.

Atkinson was the next step, as Marks envisions a head coach who will fully utilize the pieces provided. The Spurs' DNA is all over the Nets, as Atkinson is currently working for Mike Budenholzer, who was a longtime assistant in San Antonio. There's no guarantee the success will replicate itself in Brooklyn, but it's a path worth taking, considering the precedence in San Antonio.

Center Brook Lopez and forward Thaddeus Young, the two highest-paid Nets, combine for 44 percent of the team's total salary cap space this season. But with the new television deal set to kick in next season, Brooklyn will at least garner a few more millions to their coffer, as an estimated $40 million will be available in the adjusted salary cap. Atkinson could be a valued asset during the free agency frenzy this summer, as he's well liked and respected around the league. Marks is charged with a culture change and to make Brooklyn appealing to free agents over a period of time. It'll be a road filled with singles and doubles, and very few home runs, so Nets' fans shouldn't be hitching their hopes to the likes of a Kevin Durant or an Al Horford, but more like a Nicolas Batum, Al Jefferson, Ryan Anderson, Gerald Henderson, or an Evan Turner.

The new general manager alluded to such soon after being hired, noting that agents and players are already "getting wind that something different is happening" in Brooklyn.

Nets notes

The Nets will have the seventh-most cap space available this summer.

Atkinson is now the team's sixth head coach since it moved to Brooklyn prior to the 2012-13 season. He follows Avery Johnson, P.J. Carlesimo, Jason Kidd, Lionel Hollins and the interim coach Tony Brown.

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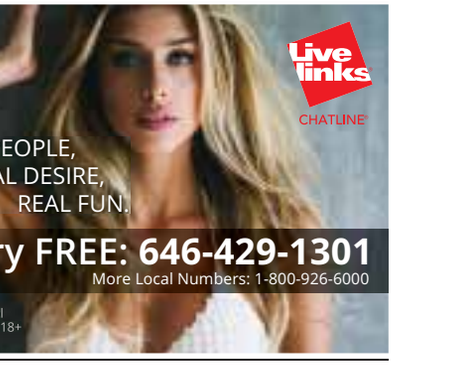

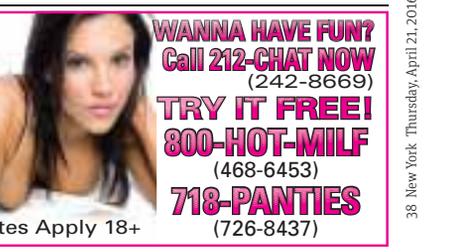

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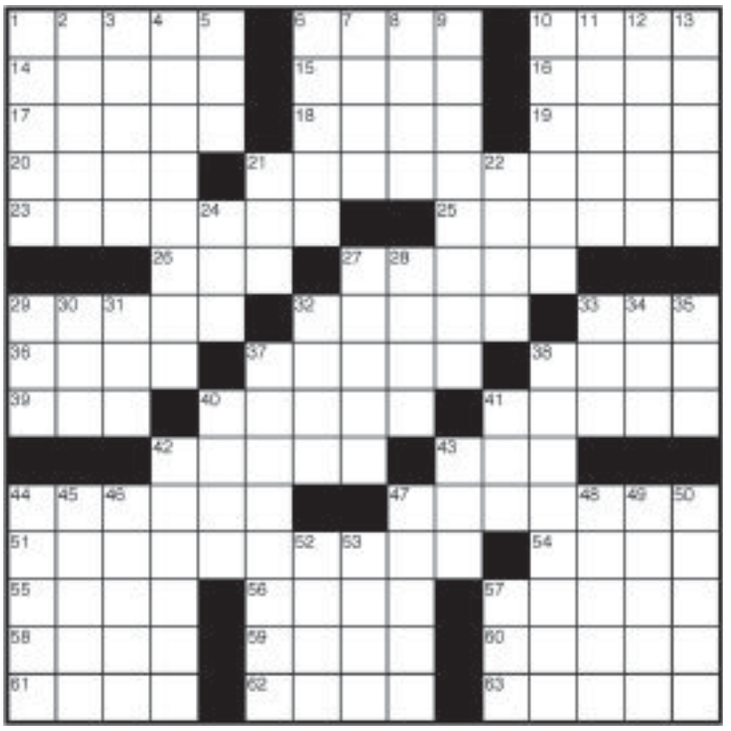

Across

1 Bard's forte
6 "Hot Lips" series
10 Freighter locales
14 Specks
15 Mighty Dog rival
16 Bottom feeder
17 — raving mad
18 Wedge driver
19 Hydrox rival
20 Fishing float
21 Bread at the beach? (2 wds.)
23 Uses a compass
25 Most ancient
26 How cacti like it
27 Swings around
29 Grid coach Don —
32 Makes small talk
33 Except
36 Word before meeny
37 Hilarious people
38 Twist-offs
39 Koppel or Knight
40 Muscle injuries
41 Swat
42 — — the run (grab a bite)
43 Fair-hiring abbr.
44 Seafood dish
47 All thumbs
51 Near 12,000 feet in the Rockies
54 Chills
55 Jellybean shape
56 Franc's successor
57 Disparage
58 Port or sherry
59 Oklahoma town
60 Pilot
61 Close violently
62 Return env.
63 Uptight

Down

1 Music with a beat
2 Helicopter part
3 Nintendo forerunner
4 Drastically
5 Say please
6 Half the parents
7 Astronaut — Shepard
8 Future fries
9 Not the "me too" type
10 Viragos
11 Bogart in "High Sierra"
12 Territories
13 Good loser
21 Hog haven
22 Cheers for toreros
24 D.C. lobby
27 Fleeced
28 Back muscles
29 Collection
30 Laugh syllable
31 Sturm -- Drang
32 Luigi's farewell
33 Meadow murmur
34 Checkout ID
35 My, my!
37 Condo buyers, maybe
38 Beef jerky, just barely
40 First-aid kit item
41 Stir-fry pan
42 Logo
43 Lamb's dam
44 Tucks away
45 Polite
46 Freezer name
47 Battery post
48 A second time
49 Clever ploys
50 Steel plow inventor
52 The Moon
53 Rainbow goddess
57 Rudder's place

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easy

1					4		8	
2				5			7	1
		5			6	9		
5	9	7						
	8		1		3		5	
						4	2	9
		4	8			1		
7	5			2				4
	1		7					2

hard

	2	5			9	6		
9	4		8		1		3	
6								
		2	1					
1	5		3		6		7	9
					4	5		
								6
	1		5		2		9	3
		9	6			8	2	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Diplomacy will help you avoid a breakdown of communication. Put a positive twist on whatever you contribute. Romance will help you keep the peace with someone you love.

Taurus You have some good ideas. Discussing options with friends, peers or someone who needs help will put you in demand. Use charm in order to get the help you need.

Gemini Do whatever it takes to get fit. Personal projects geared toward perfecting your image will pay off, as long as you stay within your means.

Cancer A problem with a loved one will surface if you are preoccupied. A unique offer will help mend any broken promises or oversights. Keeping the peace is in your best interest.

Leo Do whatever it takes to lift your spirits and build your confidence. Participate in a challenge that tests your skills. Invest in your surroundings or visit a destination that excites you.

Virgo A window of opportunity must not be ignored. An intelligent offer will be your ticket to an unusual investment with plenty of potential. A promise will lead to a new beginning.

Libra Disagreements will end in a stalemate. Put your reputation first and avoid a situation that can make you look bad. Accept an inevitable change and make the most of it.

Scorpio Focus on your home and family, and make some unusual changes to the way you live. A good workstation or entertainment center will add harmony to your environment.

Sagittarius Changes you initiate at home will enhance an important relationship. Don't get involved in rumors or deal with institutions or government agencies. Expect delays.

Capricorn If you voice your opinion and share your ideas, you will be offered valuable information. Keep the peace when dealing with close friends, children or loved ones.

Aquarius Discuss your ideas and plans with a loved one. Reuniting with old co-workers will resurrect a plan or project from the past that still interests you.

Pisces Keep an open mind but don't be too trusting when dealing with peers, groups or clubs trying to change your beliefs, values or life direction. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

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